

Calendar Countdown

October 5-9, 2002

SAF National Convention – Forests at Work. Winston-Salem, NC.
Contact: Madelaine Morgan, 301/897-8720, ext. 111.

October 25-26, 2002

Special Forest Products Production and Marketing Conference. Drury Lodge; Cape Girardeau, MO.
Contact: Julie Rhoads, UMC; 573/882-3234.

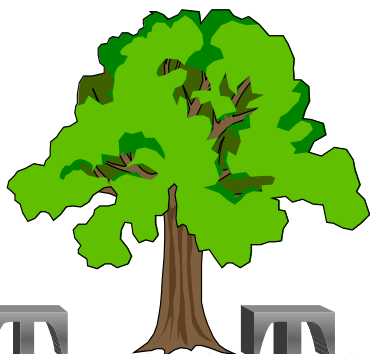
November 1, 2002

Central Region (Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas) Woodland Stewardship Conference. Lied Conference Center; Nebraska City, NE. Contact: Iowa State University, 515-294-1168

Trees Are the Answer!

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TreeTalk

America's Oldest Cattle Ranch Enters Into Unique Forest Agreement



In a first-of-its-kind agreement, the Stuart Land and Cattle Company of Virginia (SLCC), founded in 1776, has permanently enrolled 5,750 forested acres on its Rich Mountain farm into the Nature Conservancy's new Conservation Forestry Program. Under this agreement, the Conservancy will make annual payments to the landowner based on the appraised timber value. The Conservancy will conduct ecologically-sustainable forestry on the property to generate funds for the annual payments, while protecting critical habitat for migratory songbirds, imperiled aquatic species, rare natural communities and water quality.

Maintaining the forest cover on Rich Mountain Farm in perpetuity will help protect water quality for one of the world's most diverse populations of rare fishes and endangered freshwater mussels.

- The Nature Conservancy

Chicken Litter

Poultry litter has been traditionally used as a fertilizer for crop and pastureland. But researchers from the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station (MAFES) and the Southwest Mississippi RC&D are investigating environmentally friendly and continuous uses for this valuable agricultural byproduct.

One application currently under investigation is using poultry litter as fertilizer for forests. MAFES has been studying the growth responses of pine trees to poultry litter and the environmental quality issues associated with litter use in forests. After applying litter at three levels they were surprised to see a growth response in trees within the space of six months. In addition to promoting tree growth, they also notices that the trees acted as nutrient pumps to pull nutrients from the soil, preventing the movement of nutrients into water and the environment.

- The Forestry Source

The Wye Oak is No More

The Wye Oak, the nation's largest white oak, during a thunderstorm this spring. At its Maryland oak measured 31.8 feet in and 96 feet tall with a crown spread of 119 feet (nearly one-third acre). The Wye Oak was long recognized as the largest white oak tree in the nation. Its stately presence in the village of Wye Mills, Maryland had marked the passage of time for many generations. Since beginning its quiet unassuming life in the 1500s, it had seen the fall of a civilization and the birth of a nation. In 1939 the Wye Oak site became Maryland's smallest State Park and marked the first time a government purchased a single tree for preservation.



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Going to The Birds

According to a new study by Ohio State University researchers, farming in and around forests is more



detrimental to bird populations than timber harvesting because farming may make bird nests more vulnerable to predation by animals and other birds. Amanda Rodewald and her colleague Richard Yahner, professor of wildlife ecology at Penn State University, surveyed bird populations inside 10 forest of roughly equal size in central Pennsylvania. Five of the forests contained farm patches while the other five featured clearings left by timber harvesting. After accounting for the differences in the amount of disturbance within each forest, they found that nesting sites in forested landscapes disturbed by timber harvesting was about 2 ½ times more successful than in those disturbed by farming. Roderwald and Yahner explain the difference in nesting success by suggesting that the farm patches somehow help nest predators to thrive by providing them with greater access to food or possibly by helping them survive the winter, thereby resulting in higher populations of predators each year.

- *The Forestry Source*

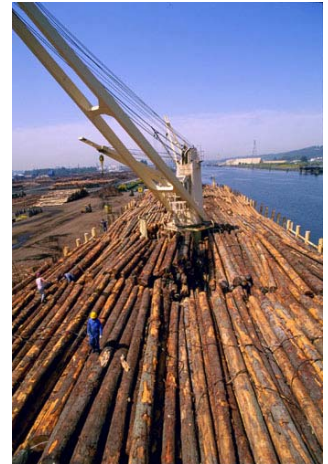
Columbia Wins Missouri State FFA Forestry Contest

A 4-person team of budding foresters from Columbia competed against 35 other schools this spring near Ashland, Missouri and took home first place honors. Columbia team members included Chris Hughes, Jennifer Smith, Steven Howard, and Ed Erdel. Chris Hughes was also the high scorer for the state forestry contest. The top five scoring schools in the 2002 state FFA forestry contest were Columbia, Stockton, Forsyth, Buffalo, and Mountain Grove.

Rules for Cutting Firewood

With the heating season just around the corner, and many individuals anxious to fire up the ol' chain saw, here are a few rules to adhere to when attempting to cut down one of nature's wonders:

1. Park twice as far from the tree as the tree is tall.
2. Never park downhill from the tree you are cutting down.
3. The fact that you live within driving distance of a forest does not make you a lumberjack.
4. Just to be on the safe side, always borrow your buddy's truck.



Portable Skidder Timber-Bridge Design

The USDA Forest Service and the Wood In Transport program have developed a portable/temporary skidder bridge to cross drainages for field harvesting equipment. The bridge is designed to carry a 27,000 pound axle load, which equates to a Caterpillar 525 Skidder with an 8,000 pound grapple load. One major goal of this project was to design a light-weight, easy-to-install bridge that would aid in minimizing erosion and sedimentation at stream crossing. Panels are preassembled, and field equipment, such as a skidder, can be used to install the bridge. Visit the Wood In Transportation website at www.fs.fed.us/na/wit.

